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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1.099.PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DE 96/00598	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.03.1996	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.03.1995
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G07D7/00		
Applicant WHD ELEKTRONISCHE PRÜFTECHNIK GMBH ET AL.		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>26</u> sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of the invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 	

Date of submission of the demand 21.10.1996	Date of completion of this report 16.05.97
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of / Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.:

the international application as originally filed.

the description. pages _____ as originally filed.
pages _____ filed with the demand.
pages 1-9, 11-19 filed with the letter of 14.02.97
pages 10 filed with the letter of 18.04.97

the claims. Nos. _____ as originally filed.
Nos. _____ as amended under Article 19.
Nos. _____ filed with the demand.
Nos. 1,8-13(to line 27) filed with the letter of 18.04.97
Nos. 2-7, 13(line 28)-21 filed with the letter of 14.02.97

the drawings. sheets/fig 1/6 - 6/6 as originally filed.
sheets/fig _____ filed with the demand.
sheets/fig _____ filed with the letter of _____
sheets/fig _____ filed with the letter of _____

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description. pages _____
 the claims. Nos. _____
 the drawings. sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 21	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 21	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 21	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. The following search report citations are considered in this report:

D1 = DE-A-4 325 027

D2 = WO-A-94/22114

D3 = EP-A-0 204 574.

2. The closest prior art is represented by D1 which concerns the checking of security documents comprising electrically conductive security strips and discloses a method and devices displaying the features which appear in the preambles of independent claims 1, 9 and 13.

D1 discloses evaluation of the field strength variation occurring when a high-frequency field is bridged by a metal security strip.

In order to improve the sensitivity, reliability and suppression of interference energy of known methods and devices and in particular to prevent objects to be checked which are surface conductive and damp, that is which have been deliberately damped, from being evaluated as genuine, and to prevent breaks in the metal strips of genuine bank notes from going undetected, independent claims 1, 9 and 13 propose using the capacitive coupling known per se to transmit electrical signals from transmitting antennae via electrically conductive security features to reception antenna and amplify these signals selectively, filter them to prevent interference energy, assess them for amplitude and time characteristics, and compare them with already existing signal characteristics by converting them into signal characteristics comprising easily recognizable parameters.

The searched prior art does not suggest the combination of features given in claims 1, 9 and 13.

The present application satisfies the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability criteria of PCT Article 33(1).

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The introductory part of the description refers only to claim 1 when presenting the present invention, whereas it should also refer to the other independent claims, claims 9 and 13.

Replacement page 23 should contain the whole of claim 13.

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The final two lines of claim 9 should be clarified. The option that "holding-down devices or conveyer belts, rollers" are provided, in other words, that holding-down devices can be replaced by conveyer belts or rollers, does not seem sensible.